

**City of Reading City Council  
Regular Business Meeting  
Monday, March 25, 2013**

Council President Francis G. Acosta called the meeting to order.

Councilor Randy Corcoran gave the invocation.

All present pledged to the flag.

**ATTENDANCE**

Council President Acosta  
Councilor Corcoran, District 1  
Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2  
Councilor Sterner, District 3  
Councilor Marmarou, District 4  
Councilor Reed, District 5  
City Auditor D. Cituk  
City Solicitor C. Younger  
Managing Director C. Snyder  
City Clerk L. Kelleher  
Mayor V. Spencer

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A Council Commendation recognizing Greek Independence Day was accepted by the Greek Community.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council President Acosta announced that two citizens were registered to address Council on non-agenda matters. He inquired if any Councilor objected to suspending the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting. As no one objected the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting was suspended. Council President Acosta reminded the citizens registered to speak about the remaining public speaking rules.

**Michelle Reese, of South 19<sup>th</sup> Street**, stated that she received six Quality of Life violations at her residence and missed the appeals periods due to health issues. She expressed the belief that the program is unfavorable to property owners who pay their taxes and do their best to keep their properties in good condition. She stated that if she believed she was guilty she would have no problem paying the fine; however she stated that she disagrees with the charges.

**Dustin Reese, of South 19<sup>th</sup> Street**, expressed the belief that he and his wife were given the run around when calling City Hall to inquire about the Quality of Life tickets. He stated that his conversation with Codes managers was unsuccessful. He stated that his calls to the Mayor's office were not returned. He expressed the belief that he and his wife were singled out due to the repeated succession of the Quality of Life tickets they received for various infractions. He stated that the inspector could have issued tickets for the various issues on the same visit. He expressed the belief that this program was created to clean the City not to be a revenue generator.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES**

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the minutes for the March 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council and March 7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the Consent Agenda heading.

**Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Marmarou, to approve the minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and March 7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and the agenda for this meeting, including the legislation listed under the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **Consent Agenda**

**A. Resolution 20-2013** – authorizing the disposition of the following records in the City Clerk's Office in accordance with City of Reading Records Retention Policy and Document Retention Schedule (**Council Staff**)

- 1962, 1967 & 1973– Corbit's Incorporated
- 1995 – Cogle's Recycling, Incorporated
- 1986 to 1996 – Coyne, George S. Chemical Company, Inc.
- 1984 to 1990 – Crime Victim's Center
- 1982 to 1985 – Crime Watch Association
- 1968 to 1970 – Richard Cripps
- 1956 – Leon and Angelina Crupi
- 1986 – Crane Electric Supply Company
- 1985 – Credit Bureau of Reading/Berks County
- 1978 – Crest Truck Equipment Company

**B. Award of Contract** – to the Animal Rescue League for animal control and shelter services for 2013 thru 2017 not to exceed \$693,153.00 over a five year period (**Admin Serv & Law**)

**C. Resolution 21-2013** - authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit an application for a PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant for a Phase II rehabilitation project at the 11th & Pike Playground (**Public Works**)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mayor Spencer read his report distributed to Council at the meeting, as summarized below.

- Provided an update on the follow up to the Crime Summit meeting in Council Chambers on March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Reported on his meeting with the Centre Park community
- Described the start of the CitiStat program that will streamline administrative reporting
- Described the process to select a new Parking Authority Executive Director

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the next steps to the action items that developed at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Crime Summit follow up meeting. Mayor Spencer stated that he has a meeting to discuss the action items with the Police Chief, District Attorney and Commissioner Leinbach.

Councilor Marmarou stated that the Crime Status meeting conducted by the Police Department last Monday was an excellent forum that helped members of the public understand how the Department handles all levels of criminal activity.

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council. In summary:

- 2013 Admissions Tax collection
- 2013 Real Estate Transfer Tax collection
- Hiring Beth Zimmerman to fill the vacant Auditing Coordinator position

## REPORT FROM DEPT. DIRECTORS, BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, & COMMISSIONS

None.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

**A. Bill No. 16-2013** - amending the Charter Board Ordinance, Section V. Enforcement, Part C Board Information regarding the Confidentiality of Charter Board Decisions (**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz**) *Introduced at the March 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No 16-2013.**

**Bill No. 16-2013 was tabled by the following vote:**

**Yeas:** Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6  
**Nays:** None -0

**B. Bill No. 17-2013** - amending Chapter 11, Housing, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading, by dividing the Housing Ordinance into two parts: 1) Rental and Vacant Property and 2) Disruptive Conduct and by adjusting language in each part as necessary as attached in Exhibit A **(Law)** *Introduced at the March 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 17-2013.**

Managing Director Snyder stated that this ordinance does not create new terms or regulations; but instead, provides clarification by separating various sections out.

**Bill No. 17-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6**  
**Nays: None -0**

**C. Bill No. 18-2013** - authorizing the Mayor to execute an amended Memorandum of Understanding between the Reading Berks Association of Realtors and the City of Reading to allow CORE properties to be marketed and sold as mixed use and owner occupied rentals **(Law)** *Introduced at the March 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to enact Bill No 18-2013.**

Councilor Corcoran stated that this amendment will allow the CORE Committee to consider owner-occupied mixed use options for CORE properties.

Council President Acosta agreed with the need to adjust the terms of the program to meet the needs of various real estate transactions.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the positive partnership with the Reading Berks Association of Realtors.

**Bill No. 18-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6**  
**Nays: None -0**

**D. Bill No. 19-2013** - authorizing the Mayor to execute the lease between the City of Reading and Egelman's Park Association for a portion of premises known as Egelman's Park **(Man Dir)** *Introduced at the March 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to table Bill No 19-2013.**

**Bill No. 19-2013 was tabled by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6**

**Nays: None -0**

**E. Bill No. 20-2013** - authorizing the Mayor of the City of Reading, PA to execute any and all documents to effectuate the consent to the transfer of certain real estate and the related assumption of the associated loan obligation between Goggle Works Ventures, L.P., and Goggle Works, LLC (**Man Dir**) *Introduced at the March 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 20-2013.**

Managing Director Snyder stated that the Goggle Works Ventures L.P. and Goggle Works LLC have taken a HUD loan of \$1.8M to fund this project. This loan will be repaid by the organization. She stated that the transaction was scrutinized by the Administration before it was referred for Council action and that the transfer of real estate will protect the City's position.

**Bill No. 20-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6**

**Nays: None -0**

**F. Bill No. 21-2013** - amending the 2013 Position Ordinance by changing the title of an employee in the Human Resources Division, by reducing one Property Maintenance Inspector and one Aide and adding two Inspections Clerks, and adding two Municipal Aides in the CSC (**Man Dir**) *Introduced at the March 11 regular meeting*

**Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No 21-2013.**

Managing Director Snyder stated that this amendment shifts titles and positions and adds two additional Municipal Aide positions in the CSC to perform document digitization for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. She stated that the salaries will be charged to the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

**Bill No. 21-2013 was enacted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: – Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6**

Nays: None -0

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES**

No ordinances were introduced.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution 22-2013** – appointing Frank Denbowski to the Charter Review Commission (Nom & Appts)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolution No. 22-2013.

Resolution No. 22 -2013 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President -  
6

Nays: None -0

**B. Resolution 23-2013** – appointing Randy Corcoran to the Charter Review Commission (Nom & Appts)

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 23-2013.

Resolution No. 23 -2013 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President -  
6

Nays: None -0

**C. Resolution 24-2013** – appointing Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz to the Charter Review Commission (Nom & Appts)

Councilor Sterner moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution No. 24-2013.

Resolution No. 24 -2013 was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President -  
6

Nays: None -0

**D. Resolution 25-2013** – appointing Carl Geffken to the Charter Review Commission (Nom & Appts)

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, to adopt Resolution No. 25-2013.**

**Resolution No. 25 -2013 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6**

**Nays: None -0**

**E. Resolution 26-2013 – appointing John Slifko to the Charter Review Commission (Nom & Appts)**

**Councilor Reed moved, seconded by Councilor Corcoran, to adopt Resolution No. 26-2013.**

**Resolution No. 26-2013 was adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Acosta, President - 6**

**Nays: None -0**

**F. Resolution 27-2013 - appointing Sam Ruchlewicz to the Charter Review Commission (Nom & Appts)**

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to adopt Resolution No. 27-2013.**

**Resolution No. 27 -2013 was NOT adopted by the following vote:**

**Yeas: Marmarou, Sterner, Acosta, President - 3**

**Nays: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Reed - 3**

City Solicitor Younger expressed the belief that the lack of approval for this appointment may be a nullity.

## **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilor Sterner congratulated those honored this evening. He agreed with the need to re-evaluate the Quality of Life program.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the vast number of QoL tickets issued monthly in District 2 and her difficulty in responding to each constituent who complains about this program. She suggested that the Administration work with Council to develop a policy about this program.

Councilor Corcoran congratulated the Greek community. He noted that St Constantine and Helen's Church is located within District 1.

Councilor Marmarou expressed the belief that Council and the Administration need to begin working together, rather than fighting. He also expressed his belief in the candidate he nominated for the Charter Review Commission.

Councilor Reed described the good appeals process that operates within the Quality of Life ticketing program.

Councilor Reed also described the threatening letters around the District 5 political race she recently received.

Council President Acosta assigned the Quality of Life ticketing program evaluation to the Housing Committee. He agreed that this program was meant to create a clean City. He suggested applying a common sense approach.

Council President Acosta stated that he attended the meeting with the Centre Park community last week and he noted the importance and strength of communities that are organized.

Council President Acosta reviewed the meeting schedule and noted that a special meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm regarding committee agendas and Charter Review Commission appointments and a leadership meeting with the Reading School District on Wednesday, April 3 at 5:30 pm.

**Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.**

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk*